

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 FEA-01 TRSE-00 NSF-01

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FM AMCONSUL PERTH

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, ENRG, PFOR, AS, US (COURT, SIR CHARLES W.M.)

SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO U.S.

REF: PERTH A-44

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN PROPOSED TRIP TO US, UK AND PERSIAN GULF STATES, WEST AUSTRALIA'S PERMIER WILL PROMOTE FURTHER STATE DEVELOPMENT WITH POTENTIAL INVESTORS. PREMIER HOPES ALSO VISIT WASHINGTON BRIEFLY AND WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING USEFUL DISCUSSION OF INVESTMENT AND ENERGY ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA), SIR CHARLES COURT, PLANNING TRIP TO US, UK AND PERSIAN GULF STATES IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY. PRINCIPAL AIM IS TO PROMOTE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF WA'S IMPRESSIVE MINERAL RESOURCES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN INVESTORS.

2. IN US, COURT WILL VISIT:

A. SAN FRANCISCO FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH KAISER

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INDUSTRIES, BECHTEL, LESLIE SALT AND BANK OF MARICA.

B) CLEVELAND; CLEVELAND CLIFFS IRON.
C) PITTSBURGH; ALCOA.
D) NEW YORK FOR CONSULTATIONS INCLUDING AMAX, CHASE MAN-HATTAN, MORGAN GUARANTEE AND FOR FUNCITON BEING ARRANGED BY AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION.
E) RICHMOND TO VISIT REYNOLD METALS.
F) WASHINGTON.

COURT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING NEW BAUXITE-ALUMIA PROJECTS, ON THE MITCHELL PLATEAU AND NEAR COLLIE, AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH AMAX AND REYNOLDS.

3. PREMIER WILL PROBABLE BE TRAVELLING WITH ANDREW MENSAROS, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MINES AND ENERGY, WHOM SOME BELIEVE IS BEING GROOMED FOR FUTURE STATE LEADERSHIP.

4. COURT WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING ONE DAY STOP IN WASHINGTON WITH ANY INDICATED FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY MENSAROS. PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR DISCUSSION WOULD BE 1) INVESTMENT AND TRADE PROSPECTS AND WA GOVERNMENT POLICIES THEREON AND 2) FUEL AND ENERGY PROGRAMS, PLANNING AND ISSUES WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN ARRANGING ANY POSSIBLE WA COOPERATION WITH ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. WA FUEL AND POWER COMMISSION (STATE GOVERNMENT THINK TANK) HAS IN MIND PARTICULARLY RESEARCH PROJECT, PROBABLY IN COOPERATION WITH ALCOA, ON USE OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR MEDIUM TEMPERATURE (400 DEGREES FARENHEIT, 100 PSI STEAM USED IN ALUMINA PRODUCTION WITH PROBABLE APPLICATIONS IN NEW INDUSTRIES FORESEEN IN PILBARA STUDY, E.G. AMONIA FERTILIZER, MENTHOL, AND DESULFERIZING REFINERY. COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY HAVE PROJECT PROPOSAL READY FOR DISCUSSION.

5. PREMIER WAS PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, AS MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT, OF THE EXTENSIVE WA MINERAL BOOM (IRON ORE, BAUXITE, AND NICHEL) IN 1960S WHICH HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. HE IS NOW CONCERNED TO GET WA MINERAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MOVING AGAIN AFTER RECENT PERIOD IN WHICH NEW PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY FEDERALLY IMPOSED INVESTMENT DISINCENTIVES WHICH NOW LARGELY REMOVED. COURT GOVERNMENT HAS STATED SOLID SUPPORT FOR US ENERGY POLICIES. GIVEN VAST EXTENT AND STILL LARGELY UNEXPLORED

MINERAL POTENTIAL OF WA AS WELL AS ITS COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO US PARTICIPATION, US HAS EVERY INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING AND FACILITATING PREMIERS'S EFFORTS. EMBASSY CANBERRA GENERALLY CONCURS IN THIS VIEW.

6. SUBJECT DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE, INDICATED CALLS IN WASHINGTON MIGHT INCLUDE: 1) APPROPRIATE INTER-NATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICES OF ERDA AND OR FEA; 2) COMMERCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIBA WITH PARTICIPATION BY "BICG TICKET" OFFICE; 3) TREASURY, OASIA; 4) STATE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY EA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY EB WITH PARTICIPATION BY ORF AND POSSIBLY 5) INTERIOR, BUREAU OF MINES AND 6) NSF ALTHOUGH LATTER TWO MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR ANY FOLLOW-UP BY MENSAROS. IT COULD PROVE MORE PRODUCTIVE, AS WELL AS SAVE TIME, IF SMALL MEETINGS OF INTERESTED PERSONS FROM RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE ORGANIZED AROUND TWO MAJOR WA INTERESTS, ENERGY RESEARCH AND INVESTMENTS. ONLY LIMITED SOCIAL HOSPITALITY REQUIRED BUT SOME GESTURE INDICATED IN VIEW STATE'S IMPORTANCE TO US INTERESTS AND COURT'S HIGH REPUTATION IN US BUSINESS CIRCLES.

7. CURRENTLY INDICATED TIMING FOR WASHINGTON STOP IS DURING WEEK JANUARY 20-24. EXACT TIMING PROBABLY NOT AVAILABLE FOR SERVERAL WEEKS. PREMIER WILL MAKE OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR STOPS OTHER THAN WASHINGTON BY DIRECT CONTACTS WITH HIS BUSINESS FRIENDS AND STRONGLY PREFERS ARRANGE WASHINGTON VISIT DIRECTLY THROUGH CONSULATE WITH DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ALTHOUGH THIS PREFERENCE MAY NOT EXCLUDE PROTOCOLAIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE CONSULATE IF IT FORESEES ANY PROBLEM IN ARRANGING TYPE VISIT OUTLINED AND PROVIDE ANY GUIDANCE OR VIEWS ON SCHEDULING OR PROGRAM WHICH CONSULATE SHOULD PASS TO PREMIER. IN ORDER BE RESPONSIVE TO HIM, REPLY BY 3 JANUARY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. FOULON

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